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Conservation Commission Minutes 05/03/2012

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 3, 2012

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex.

Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Chris Naylor, Eileen Coleman, Catherine Garnett, Michelle Durocher and Charles Tirone of the Commission. Conservation Commission Administrator Cori Beckwith and Curt Connors of the Commission were not in attendance.

7:45 pm – Commission Business

Approval of the **minutes** from the 4/29/2012 meeting was deferred until the 5/17/2012 meeting so that key participants from the 4/29 meeting would have an opportunity to review them and propose any changes.

The Commission reviewed specifications for an erosion control system, EC Wattles, which was requested by the contractor and is under consideration for use at the **Arlington Catholic field** rebuild. Mr. Tirone described his unfavorable experience using the product in other projects. Some limitations of the product are: it is difficult to see as a limit of work; it doesn't hold up to wear; and it is often improperly installed without the manufacturer recommended staking and trenching. Mulch socks or straw bales have been used with more reliable results as a heavier, more durable system; however, the commission approved the use of the product with conditions: use of orange construction fencing for visibility, and selection of the 12 inch or larger diameter wattles with proper installation, including stakes installed at each end and every 4 feet; ends butted tightly together and not overlapped; wattles installed in a 3-4 inch deep trench; and a site inspection by the Commission scheduled as soon as installation is complete and before start of work.

Symmes: changes to the former agreement were discussed. Some major changes are: allowing a sales trailer on site, and access deeper into the woods in order to clean up the site debris that has accumulated since the original agreement. Mr. White suggested minor wording updates to the landscape and forest management plan. The Commission carefully scrutinized the wording of the agreements to ensure that any tree replacement that may be requested by the neighbors would be covered within the documents. Ms. Garnett requested one more day to complete review of the Symmes documents prior to the Commission finalizing approval. Motion made by Mr. White to approve the documents as amended, conditional on no further changes being requested by Ms. Garnett. Mr. Tirone seconded. The Commission voted unanimous approval.

63 Beverly Rd: Due to an incident of tree removal in the resource area which was not allowed by the existing permit, the Commission discussed mitigation that is required by Commission regulations. The Commission has identified potential replacement species that are consistent with the Commission's regulations. The applicant's arborist told Ms. Garnett that his professional opinion was that no tree could be planted in the area where the original tree was removed; given the dense canopy from the other nearby trees, he believes no newly planted tree would thrive there. The applicant has suggested that he could produce a planting plan for the front of the house, but the Commission did

not believe that would mitigate the tree removal given that the front of the house is outside the resource area. Due to complexities with developing an agreeable plan, it was decided that the applicant will need to come before the Commission to present and discuss a revised landscaping plan that will address the replacement value of the tree that was removed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Durocher, Associate Member